

**AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, or listings, of claims in the present application.

Claims 1-7 (Cancelled).

Claim 8 (Previously Presented) A water-soluble or water-dispersible polyurethane comprising a reaction product of

A) at least one polyether a1) having an average functionality of  $\geq 3$  and at least one urethane group-containing polyether polyol a2) having an average functionality of  $\geq 4$ ,

B) at least one  $C_6$ - $C_{22}$  monoalcohol,

C) at least one (cyclo)aliphatic and/or aromatic diisocyanate

D) a  $C_2$ - $C_{18}$ -oxime and/or diamine with 2 to 18 carbon atoms,

E) optionally at least one  $C_4$ - $C_{18}$  monoisocyanate,

F) optionally at least one polyisocyanate having an average functionality of  $>$

2;

wherein the starting NCO/OH equivalent ratio is between 0.5:1 to 1.2:1; and

wherein the production of polyether alcohol mixture A) containing polyethers a1) and urethane group-containing polyethers a2) has been carried out by the partial reaction of polyethers a1) with at least one organic polyisocyanate having a functionality of  $\geq 2$ , and wherein up to 50 mole % of polyethers are reacted with isocyanates.

Claims 9-16 (Cancelled).

Claim 17. (Previously Presented): The polyurethane of Claim 8, wherein the polyether polyol a1) has an average functionality of 3 to 4.

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Claim 18. (Previously Presented): The polyurethane of Claim 8, wherein the polyether polyol a1) has an average functionality of 4 to 6.

Claim 19. (Previously Presented): The polyurethane of Claim 8, wherein component B) comprises a C6-C22 monoalcohol.

Claim 20. (Previously Presented): The polyurethane of Claim 8, wherein component B) comprises a C8-C18 monoalcohol.

Claim 21. (Previously Presented): The polyurethane of Claim 8, wherein component B) comprises a C6-C14 monoalcohol.

Claim 22. (Previously Presented): The polyurethane of Claim 8, wherein the component C) comprises a (cyclo)aliphatic diisocyanate.

Claim 23. (Currently Amended): A process for the production of the water-soluble or water dispersible polyurethane of Claim 8, comprising reacting

A) a mixture of at least one polyether polyol a1) having ~~a mean~~ an average functionality of  $\geq 3$  and at least 1 urethane group-containing polyether polyol a2) having an average functionality of  $\geq 4$ , wherein production of polyether polyol mixture A) containing polyethers a1) and urethane group-containing polyethers a2) has been carried out by the partial reaction of polyethers a1) with at least one organic polyisocyanate having a functionality of  $\geq 2$ , and wherein up to 50 mole % of polyethers are reacted with isocyanates.

- B) at least one C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>22</sub> monoalcohol,
- C) at least one (cyclo)aliphatic and/or aromatic diisocyanate,
- D) a C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>18</sub> oxime and/or diamine with 2 to 18 carbon atoms,
- E) optionally at least one C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>18</sub> monoisocyanate, and

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F) optionally at least one polyisocyanate having an average functionality of > 2;

wherein at a starting NCO/OH equivalent ratio of is about 0.5:1 to about 1.2:1.

Claim 24. (Previously Presented): The process of Claim 23, wherein the urethane group-containing polyether polyol a2) comprises the reaction product of the polyether polyol a1) with a diisocyanate.

Claim 25. (Previously Presented): The process of one of Claims 23 and 24, wherein the urethane group-containing polyether polyol a2) comprises the reaction product of the polyether polyol a1) with polyisocyanates having an average functionality of 2.

Claim 26. (Currently Amended): A process for adjusting the flow properties of an aqueous paint system, adhesive and another aqueous formulation comprising adding the polyurethane produced by reacting: of Claim 8 thereto

A) a mixture of at least one polyether polyol a1) having an average functionality of  $\geq 3$  and at least 1 urethane group-containing polyether polyol a2) having an average functionality of  $\geq 4$ , wherein production of polyether polyol mixture A) containing polyethers a1) and urethane group-containing polyethers a2) has been carried out by the partial reaction of polyethers a1) with at least one organic polyisocyanate having a functionality of  $\geq 2$ , and wherein up to 50 mole % of polyethers are reacted with isocyanates.

B) at least one C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>22</sub> monoalcohol,

C) at least one (cyclo)aliphatic and/or aromatic diisocyanate,

D) a C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>18</sub> oxime and/or diamine with 2 to 18 carbon atoms,

E) optionally at least one C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>18</sub> monoisocyanate, and

F) optionally at least one polyisocyanate having an average functionality of >

2;

wherein a starting NCO/OH equivalent ratio is about 0.5:1 to about 1.2:1.

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**Claim 27. (Previously Presented): An aqueous paint system, adhesive and another aqueous formulation comprising the polyurethane of Claim 8.**

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